THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) There is no proposal for setting up of a "Data Bank" for information regarding new techniques in medical treatment.

The current practice in the medical science is that any new technique in medical treatment is tried by individual professional/group of professional/institutions/group of institutions and then presented at conference of respective professional body. The work so carried out is also published in peer reviewed journals. Various professionals/ professional bodies evaluate new technique in medical treatment and successful/validated techniques, then find place in standard text books. Once published in standard medical professional text books, the new technique of investigation/medical treatment finds wider acceptance.

Asian lions in Gir

*79. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Asian lions in Gir forest in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have any plan for the rehabilitation of these lions as well as to increase their number;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have left some of these lions in the forests of Kuno-Palpur in the year 1979;

(e) if so, their condition as of now; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to check the declining number of lions in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There are around 327 lions in and around the Gir forests of Gujarat as per the information provided by the State Government based on population estimation done by them in May, 2001.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Kuno-Palpur Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has been identified as an alternative home for the Asiatic lions, and a project has been undertaken for lion introduction in the said area.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) In addition to the lion introduction project, funding support under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries is provided to Gujarat, which has the only population of lions in the country.

Immoral practices by ART clinics

*80. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics in India are allowed to use ova, sperm or human embryo of an unknown donor on an infertile woman, without consent of the couple;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that it may cause many unethical and immoral situations, when brother/sister or father/daughter can marry in future;

(c) whether Government have any proposal of enacting a law on such immoral practices; and

(d) how such practices are proposed to be banned till such time a law is enacted?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) Currently there is no Central legislation to regulate working of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics in India. This issue would be regulated by the appropriate State's laws. For instance, the Delhi Government has passed the 'Delhi Artificial Insemination (Human) Act, 1995' which prohibits use of ova, sperm or human embryo of an unknown donor on an infertile women without the consent of the couple.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has prepared Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India, after detailed discussions and debate by expert groups of the